



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

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Tim Jackman
Deputy Chief of Police
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Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

Lisa Massacani
PSA/Coordinator
Neighborhood Watch
Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH APPRECIATION BARBECUE

Wednesday, June 16, 2004
6:00 p.m.

Police Officers Association (POA) Park
7290 East Carson Street
(Behind Lowe's Home Improvement)

It's time once again to honor all of our hard-working and dedicated
Neighborhood Watch Block Captains
at our annual Neighborhood Watch Appreciation BBQ.

Please come and enjoy a dinner on us!

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- June 5, 2004, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
[Youth and Family Summit - Leadership Long Beach](#)
St. Mary's Medical Center- 1055 Linden Avenue
For further information, contact PSA Marlene Arrona: (562) 570-5028
- June 6, 2004, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
[9th Annual CPR Sunday and Health Expo](#)
Long Beach City College - Liberal Arts Campus (Carson Street/Clark Avenue)
For further information, contact Pat Kadoguchi: (562) 570-2505
- June 12, 2004, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
["Run For Life" at Rainbow Harbor](#) (next to the Aquarium of the Pacific)
Hosted by: Memorial Hospital - Jonathon Jaques Children's Cancer Center
For further information, contact Detective Dianna Anderson: (562) 570-7658
- June 12 & 13, 2004, Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
[Special Olympics Expo - CSULB, Pyramid](#)
Special Olympics of Southern California, 1250 Bellflower Blvd
For further information, contact Shelli Henson: (310) 215-8380 Ext. 114
- June 26, 2004, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
[Block Party and Safety Fair](#)
Wilmore Police Center, 1242 Cedar Avenue
For further information, contact Teresa Lopez: (562) 570-1146

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4th of July Planning . . . ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN LONG BEACH

During the Fourth of July celebration, the Long Beach Police Department will be **strictly enforcing the ban on ALL fireworks, including sparklers, within the City.** If you are found using any type of fireworks in Long Beach, you can be arrested and you may be fined \$1,000.00, sentenced to jail for six months or both. The fines and penalties increase if you are found in possession of fireworks classified as dangerous.

The beaches located from Shoreline Drive to the end of the Peninsula will be heavily patrolled by the Long Beach Police Department. There will be amnesty bins located at various sites along the beach where you can voluntarily place your illegal fireworks and avoid the fine and/or incarceration.

The Long Beach City Ordinance, which was adopted 40 years ago, is stricter than ordinances in many adjoining cities. Fireworks sold in these cities are illegal in Long Beach.

Every year with the city, and across the nation, citizens receive serious, often debilitating injuries because of the use of fireworks. Injuries can result in severe burns, scars and disfigurement that can last a lifetime. On a typical Fourth of July, fireworks cause more fires in the United States than all other causes combined. It is for these reasons that **ALL fireworks**, other than licensed and controlled professional public displays, are illegal within Long Beach.

Here are some fireworks facts to consider:

- ◆ Nationwide over 8,500 individuals per year receive fireworks injuries requiring treatment in a hospital's emergency room. This figure does not reflect injuries treated in doctors' offices or at home.

Eye damage accounts for 20 percent of all fireworks injuries and many of these injuries result in permanent blindness, 40 percent of injuries involve hands and 20 percent of fireworks accidents involve facial injuries.

\$1,000 FINE



6 MONTHS IN JAIL

Nearly half of all consumer fireworks injuries occur among children under the age of 15. Males receive roughly three-fourths of fireworks injuries.

Even fireworks mistakenly thought to be safe, like sparklers, pose a significant danger. They can cause critical burns to users and bystanders because they reach temperatures above 1,000 degrees.

- ◆ There are over 22,000 fires per year caused by fireworks nationally, and fireworks-related fires have typically caused at least \$20 million nationwide in property loss. A substantial share of the structure-fire property loss is due to bottle rockets or other aerial fireworks.

We are providing this information now so that you can make your 4th of July plans in advance. Check your local newspaper for professional fireworks displays in your community. The elimination of the amateur use of fireworks will minimize injuries and save lives and property. You can make the difference.

FREE PAINT VOUCHERS A Free Paint Program



The Free Paint Program provides free paint to be used specifically for removing graffiti from the exterior of buildings. Any property owner or occupant of private property located in the City of Long Beach is eligible to receive free paint for the purpose of removing graffiti.

Graffiti

How do I get the free paint?

Just call the 24-hour GRAFFITI HOTLINE at (562) 570-2773, press '0' to talk to an attendant. If you get a recording, leave your name, address, daytime telephone number, and the exact location of graffiti on the property that you own or occupy. City staff will then verify the location of graffiti and determine the quantity and color of paint needed.

You will then receive a voucher with information on how to pick up your free paint.

*For more information, please call
(562) 570-6866*



Motorized Scooters, Mini-Motos, Pocket Bikes and the Law



CHILD SAFETY

AB 1697 will require a child or ward under the age of six years who weighs less than 60 pounds to be secured in a child passenger restraint system (child safety seat, booster, car bed, or harness that meets federal standards) in the **rear seat** of a motor vehicle. This measure has a delayed operative date starting in January of 2005.

This new law will not be enforced until **January 1, 2005**, but parents and caregivers are encouraged to start seating all children, under the age of six, who weigh less than 60 pounds, in a child passenger restraint system in the rear seat of a motor vehicle. Although this is not part of the law, AAA and NHTSA recommend that all children, 12 and under, should ride properly restrained in the back seat. The law does allow for certain exceptions: if the vehicle does not have rear seats, the child restraint can't be properly installed in the rear seat, medical reasons, or if all seating positions are in use by children under age 12.

The new law is aimed at protecting young children from injuries related to crashes while riding in the front seat of a motor vehicle, especially those related to the force of front seat activated air bags. A first offense base fine will be one hundred dollars, and a second or subsequent offense will have a base fine of two hundred fifty dollars.

Motorized scooters, pocket bikes and mini-motos can be a fun source of recreation or even an effective form of transportation. In California, it is legal to ride motorized scooters and mini-motos on the road. These transportation sources do not require a registration or license plate, nor do they require the operator to possess a driver's license or insurance. **However, it is now illegal to operate gas powered pocket bikes on a public highway and you must possess a valid motorcycle (Class M1) license to ride one off-road.**

The operation of these vehicles is governed by local and state law. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) contains laws which apply to motorized scooters are also applicable to mini-motos. These laws are sections 407.5 and 21220 – 22411 of the California Vehicle Code. Motorized scooters and mini-motos are not considered "motor vehicles" as defined in the Vehicle Code. However, there are age restrictions and other laws you must follow when operating one. Failure to obey these laws, can result in a citation.

The operator must be at least 16 years of age. Riders are required to obey all rules of the road, and the driver must wear a helmet (either a motorcycle or bicycle helmet). They may not be operated at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour, and may not be operated on a roadway with a speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour unless ridden in a bicycle lane. They cannot be operated on the sidewalk and may be ridden on a bike path unless prohibited by signs. No passengers other than the driver are allowed.

Ride Defensively

If you ride a motorized scooter or mini-moto on a public street, remember that you share the road with motor vehicles. It is easier for you to see them, than for them to see you. Do not dart in and out of traffic. Use bicycle lanes if they are available. If you need to make a left turn, you are required by law to get off and walk it across the street in the crosswalk. Assume that other drivers do not see you and anticipate their moves to avoid problems. Do not be in too much of a hurry. Riding these vehicles can be fun, but you must be responsible.

Noise Complaints

The California Vehicle Code currently has no specific laws regarding noise restrictions on motorized scooters and mini-motos. Section 415 of the California Penal Code addresses noise disturbances in general. The City of Long Beach and most other cities have local ordinances regarding noise disturbances as well.

If the noise from one of these vehicles is such that it is disturbing the peace, the police may be called and the violator could receive a citation. The criteria used is whether the noise would disturb a "person of normal sensitivity." A "private person's" arrest would be necessary for the police to take action.

We've received many complaints regarding these scooters. We do our best to dispatch an officer to violations of any of the above sections. Please help us by providing this information to parents who allow their children to operate them.



Motorized Scooters



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

The Crime Prevention Unit's Very Own PSA John Houck Receives Honors as the Police Department's Civilian Employee of the Year 2003!

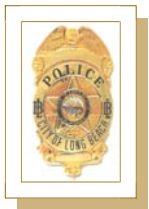
We are extremely honored to announce that PSA John Houck received the Civilian Employee of the Year Award at our 36th Annual Awards Luncheon!

John began his career with the Long Beach Police Department in 2002. Although primarily responsible for the restructuring and coordination off the department's Apartment Watch Program, he seems to have a hand in just about every aspect of the Division. Some of his additional assignments during 2003 include assisting with the Christmas "Toy Patrol", updating the division's web pages, teaching at the Police Academy, and assisting with "Erase the Past" Tattoo removal clinics. Many of you have probably seen him at your own Neighborhood Watch Meetings. His "peachy" attitude is hard to miss!

John continuously strives to make the Community Relations Division the best it can be, while promoting a positive image of the Police Department to the community. He is a highly dependable, independent, tireless worker who has made the Community Relations Division, and everyone around him, shine over the past year!

If you see John, please give him a pat on the back for a job well done!!

Please share your own Neighborhood Watch Success Story by sending an article to the Community Relations Division, or e-mail it to Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov.



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